

# Highlights of the Vermont Boating Regulations

All persons born after January 1, 1974, must successfully complete an approved boating safety education course to legally operate “any” motorized vessel including personal watercraft. The card must be carried when operating the motorized vessel.

No one under 12 years of age may operate any vessel powered by a motor of more than 6 horsepower.

No one under 16 years of age may operate a personal watercraft, even if they have successfully completed a boating safety education course.

“All vessels”, except sailboards, must carry one wearable US Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V Personal Floatation Device (PFD) for each person on board. That includes paddle boats. The PFD’s must be readily available, serviceable and of the proper fit for the intended wearer.

“All vessels” 16 feet or longer must have a US Coast Guard approved Type IV throw able PFD on board and readily accessible.

Children under 12 years of age must “wear” a US Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III PFD at all times while underway on the open deck of any vessel. Anyone being towed must wear a PFD.

Every vessel towing a person(s) on water skis or any other device must have a person who is at least 12 years old on board in addition to the vessel operator, in a position to observe the towed person(s). If towing a person(s) with a Personal Watercraft, the PWC should be rated for at least the amount of persons involved, operator, observer (facing backward) and towed person(s). Maintain 100 feet of distance between the towed person(s) and a swimmer, canoe, rowboat, kayak or any other small vessel with a person on board.

A person under 16 years of age must wear a PFD at all times while on board a sailboard.

Everyone on a Personal Watercraft must wear a PFD.

Maintain 200 foot distance if creating a wake or at a speed greater than 5 mph from the shoreline, person in the water, canoe, rowboat, kayak or other vessel, an anchored or moored vessel with a person on board or a dock. Maintain 200 foot distance from the designated swim area (beach) and a diver down flag.

Vermont law prohibits anyone from boating while intoxicated (BWI) due to alcohol, drugs or any combination.

Navigation lights must be displayed between sunset and sunrise. Personal Watercraft may not be operated between sunset and sunrise.

Fire extinguisher (a Type B) is required on all motorized vessel, it should be easily accessible and in proper working condition.

Milfoil, inspect the vessel, trailer and equipment and remove any plants prior to launching.

Complete Vermont Boating Regulations at: <http://www.boatsafe.com/vt/vermont2.htm>

Online Course Available at: <http://www.dmv.com/vt/vermont/all-about/boating-regulations>